

MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE TO MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent MacDill Air Force Base back home in Tampa, Florida, where the mission partners include the 6th Air Mobility Wing, Special Operations Command, and Central Command. Now, the Democrats will bring the defense bill to the floor of the House this week to provide them with the tools they need to be successful in their missions.

The defense bill will follow a strong commitment by this Congress under Democratic leadership to our military families and our military personnel:

One, robust pay raises for our military over the past 3 years.

Two, the new GI Bill, where Democrats restored the promise to these brave men and women who have served this country in Iraq and Afghanistan for a full 4-year scholarship.

Jobs for veterans. The Recovery Act provided tax incentives to businesses who are sending soldiers off to war.

And a historic veterans budget that the American Legion hailed as a "cause for celebration" because Democrats led a bipartisan effort to adopt the largest funding increase in veterans health care and other services in the history of the VA.

"BUDGET WOES? JUST DON'T PASS ONE"

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the headline in the Los Angeles Times read, "Budget Woes? Just don't pass one." Now that's a novel idea.

There must be all kinds of problems that Congress can ignore. I think that we can apply it to a number of things that are happening right now: Oil spill woes? Think about it tomorrow. Fannie and Freddie problems? Maybe a solution next year. Entitlement spending out of control? Just don't think about it. It's too bad our constituents don't have the same luxury of ignoring their budgets.

The national debt currently is \$12.36 trillion. The President's budget calls for \$3.8 trillion in Federal spending, which will put the deficit at \$1.6 trillion. These are numbers the majority wants to keep quiet. In my mind, it would behoove the majority to take a look at the spending and take an honest look at how to get it under control. Instead, the President has asked for the power of the line-item veto. It would seem to me that we could do a good job with a red pencil if the majority would allow it. But that would be real work right now, and apparently we don't do that.

AMERICAN JOBS AND CLOSING LOOPHOLE ACT

(Ms. KILROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, in central Ohio the economy is growing stronger, but we must continue to create an environment that encourages prosperity. The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act will do just that; it will close loopholes that give outsourcing a benefit and will provide jobs and tax relief for businesses and working families.

For too long unscrupulous corporations have outsourced American jobs, sending them overseas, sticking American taxpayers with the bill. It's time to close that tax loophole that encourages that behavior and demand accountability.

This bill also will close another tax loophole and make Wall Street fund managers pay a fair tax rate on their income, just like my central Ohio constituents do. It will make the oil companies pay for the gulf oil cleanup, not American taxpayers. And it will rebuild our crumbling infrastructure with Build America bonds. Also giving our students summer jobs, promoting research and development with a research and development tax credit.

H.R. 4223, the American Jobs and Closing Loophole Act, is deserving of our support. I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

WE NEED A CONGRESS AMERICANS CAN COUNT ON

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, we were told that Don't Ask, Don't Tell was something we would take up once we had a study done because that's the only thing that would be fair to our men and women in the service. Now we're told the study will be finished at the end of the year; we're going to take up the bill now.

We were told by the Supreme Court it was okay to have a cross in the Mojave Desert, but thieves went out there, took it out after they lost, and now the Park Service is working with the thieves, perhaps unwittingly, to keep it from happening.

The Auto Task Force met behind closed doors, turned bankruptcy law upside down, made secured creditors unsecured, owned the place, took property without due process, turned the Constitution upside down. The Congress and the courts did nothing. No wonder employment is going down and unemployment is going up; businesses can't trust this government. It is time to get back to a body that deals honestly, with integrity and with a consistency the country and businesses and jobs can count on.

JOBS ARE PRIORITY

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of continued support for jobs for Americans.

When America faced massive unemployment in the 1930s, our government stepped up with the WPA and the CCC. It's time to continue that drive, as the Democratic Congress has been doing without much help from our Republican colleagues.

The fact is that local governments have been hardest hit in the area of job cuts. Local governments have lost over 140,000 jobs in 2008 and 2009, and the number keeps growing. Another 53,000 jobs will be lost by July 1 if we don't act. Another 128,000 will be lost by fiscal year 2011 if we don't act.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm asking our colleagues to step forward for people who need to do work. This summer we are looking at young people not having enough jobs, and we need this Congress to act. We've seen job creation, we've seen job growth, we've seen 290,000 jobs created last month; but this drive needs to stay alive. The Democratic Caucus is committed to it. We hope our Republican colleagues join us, but jobs must continue to be the first order of business.

DEMOCRAT BUDGET FAILURE

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the stock market, this very minute, is dropping like a rock over the financial collapse of Greece and the pending failure of other Euro nations. They are bankrupt from unsustainable government spending under the same programs the Democrats in this body are now forcing on America.

With an overwhelming majority in the House and Senate and a Democrat in the White House, they can't even pass a budget. Heck, they're not even proposing one. Mr. Speaker, the House majority has proven it can't govern; and if we don't make a change, America will join Greece in national bankruptcy.

RESTORING FINANCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk in Congress about restoring financial security for the American people. This week everyone in this body has a chance to turn their words into action. This week, we will have the opportunity to vote to preserve access to doctors for millions of Americans enrolled in Medicare.

No senior in Florida's 19th District or anywhere in America should see the